Active Citizenship Service Project
WMed Students, Class of 2020!

By: Dr. Ransome Eke, MD PhD

Excellent, innovative, impactful, impressive and pioneers were common words used to describe the final Active Citizenship (AC) service projects presented by WMed Students (Class of 2020), at the Students forum held on February 26 and 28, in the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus auditorium.

The Active Citizenship is an 18 months rotation curriculum designed to provide service learning experience to WMed medical students, as specified by the LCME for medical education training. The AC curriculum has evolved over the year to provide our students a pleasant learning experience as they serve several communities within Kalamazoo county. Rather than an IRB level research engagement and community service, the current change in AC curriculum requires our students to provide community service and develop projects that would benefit the different community sites and the population they serve. We also hope that this new structure will assist our students to better understand the social determinants of health in the population as well as prepare them to be health advocates, as future physicians.

The class of 2020 did a phenomenal job in the quality of services they provided, and projects developed in various community sites. The projects ranged from organizing health screening programs, developing health literacy curriculum to identifying barriers to healthcare access including HPV vaccination and reproductive health services. We are so proud of our students as they displayed professionalism, creativity and maturity during the rotation. The Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is excited to be associated with these efforts undertaken by the medical students. The division provided support such as conception and development of project ideas, designing of surveys, collection and analysis of data. Going forward, the Active Citizenship Student Forum is anticipated to be an annual event to mark the end of the rotation. I look forward to another exciting moment as we keep building on what our students have displayed.
Preparation

Prepare a brief 5-minute overview of your poster for conference attendees. Be sure to mention:

1. The rationale behind your work
2. How your work is a novel contribution to the field
3. Methods (or case history)
4. Results
5. Major conclusion

Tips for Poster Design:

1. Determine how your work could be best visualized
2. Reduce text: lists are better than paragraphs
   a. Try to limit each section to 200 words
3. Your poster will be read from 5 feet away, ensure appropriate sizing of text
   a. Recommendations:
      i. Title: 85pt
      ii. Authors: 50pt
      iii. Subheadings: 36pt
      iv. Body Text: 24pt
      v. Captions 18pt
4. Make the design flow logically for the reader
   a. Typically columns from left to right
5. Use color to attract
   a. Limit to 3-5 colors
6. The title should be catchy and tell the reader the main focus of the work
7. Be sure to highlight the novelty/originality/message of your work
8. Make sure it is professional looking
   a. Proof read for typos and errors
   b. Get feedback from peers and mentors

Research Day Poster Templates can be found on Sharepoint. Below are hyperlinks for easy access:

- Research Day Template 1
- Research Day Template 2

Need more poster help? Contact Dr. Laura Bauler for assistance:
Laura.Bauler@med.wmich.edu
Just because you’re in the middle doesn’t mean you’re average  By: Duncan Vos, MS

The mean and median are single-number summaries that describe the central tendency of a set of values, however, there are situations in which it is much more appropriate to report one over the other. Appropriateness of use depends on the distribution of the set of values.

If the distribution is non-symmetrical, highly skewed, and contains a number of extreme values, then the median is a more representative measure, and when the distribution is symmetrical, the mean is generally more suitable.

For example, suppose we wish to report the appropriate measure of central tendency for a set of patient data that contains the recorded length of stay (LOS) and white blood cell count (WBC). We plot a histogram of LOS and WBC to assess the distribution. In the histogram of WBC, we notice that the distribution of WBC values is fairly symmetrical and the normal curve overlay seems to represent the distribution rather well. The mean and the median are about equal, which further indicates that the distribution is symmetrical. In this case, since the distribution is fairly symmetrical, the mean is the more favorable measure.

Remember, the mean and the median are measures of central tendency of a continuous measurement. Along with the mean and median measures of central tendency, measures of spread such as standard deviation and interquartile range are typically reported. The mean is accompanied by the standard deviation and the median by the interquartile range (IQR). When the distribution is non-symmetrical or highly skewed then the median (IQR) is most appropriate. Otherwise, for rather symmetrical distributions, and especially for the normal distribution, the mean (standard deviation) are more suitable.

Q: How do we contact you for project assistance?
A: That’s easy, just reach out to us at epibio@med.wmich.edu

Data Bytes

5 Reasons to Use REDCap for Your Study  By: Heather Rauch

SECURITY:
REDCap is HIPAA compliant. The platform is housed in WMed’s data center behind the institutional firewall.

VALIDATION:
You have control over what data are entered. No more free text showing up in your data fields!

SIMPLICITY:
REDCap includes a nice user interface, making entering data as simple as ordering your pizza online!

DATA ENTRY:
The online forms can be accessed from anywhere there is internet via a phone, tablet, or computer.

DATA EXPORT:
The statisticians will love you! REDCap data can be exported in a format that is compatible with their preferred statistical software!
Dr. James Cook, William & Kathryn Allen Distinguished Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery, the Director of the Thompson Laboratory for Regenerative Orthopaedics & Mizzou BioJoint Center and Chief of the Orthopaedic Research Division at the University of Missouri, will be the event keynote speaker. Dr. Cook will be presenting “Biologic Joint Replacement – Does it Really Work?”

*Lunch will be provided before the keynote presentation begins for you to enjoy during his presentation.*

**Important Deadlines for Research Day**

- **Friday, April 13** – Poster purchase orders must be submitted for approval (POSTER PRESENTERS ONLY)
- **Thursday, April 19** – Deadline for submission - MUST submit posters to printer by 5:00pm (to avoid late fees) (POSTER PRESENTERS ONLY)
- **Friday, April 27** – Oral PowerPoint presentation deadline – MUST submit by 5:00pm (EST) (ORAL PRESENTERS ONLY)
- **Wednesday, May 2** – 2018 Research Day

*For Research Day related questions, please contact Leah Bader or Maddie Harlan at researchday@med.wmich.edu*

**2018 KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY RESEARCH DAY**

**Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018**

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Registration and a light breakfast start at 8:00 a.m.)

WMU John T. Bernhard Center at 1903 W Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Pre-register for the event here >> [Research Day Pre-Registration Form](#)

1000 Oakland Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

**Editor:** Leah Bader
Contact us at 269-337-4609

Epi & Bio Website
epibio@med.wmich.edu